

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
June 28, 2016



FIRST CT HOPS GROWERS WORKSHOP DRAWS DOZENS TO AG EXPERIMENT STATION

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

WINDSOR - The newly-formed Connecticut Hops Growers Association (CHGA) held its first workshop and seminar last week, drawing nearly 70 farmers and others interested in raising the increasingly-popular crop that is a key flavor ingredient in brewing craft beer.

The event at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) featured informational sessions on setting up a hopyard and cultivating hops, a look at a harvesting machine, and what grants the Department of Agriculture has available to help farmers transition to hops from other crops.

"This isn't a simple crop," Association President Alex DeFrancesco, whose family runs a large flower and vegetable growing operation in Northford, said in his opening remarks. "This is a long investment process, like starting a vineyard. And we're here to help farmers do well if they want to diversify into growing hops."

Members of the CHGA began informally meeting about a year ago, led by Vic Triolo, a retired professor and hops enthusiast who with the help of a Dept. of Agriculture grant help begin a hops-growing research project at the CAES stations in Hamden and Windsor three years ago. He believes Connecticut has the right climate, soils and market potential to support a

robust hops industry, similar to the one blossoming in New York state, that would supply local and regional brewers of craft beer. He also said that wildfires and drought are starting to hurt the traditional hops-production areas in the Northwest.

"There are a lot of changes going on and the hops industry is going to start moving east again," he said. "There is a bright future here."

Hops, a climbing herbaceous flowering perennial, were grown in Connecticut and throughout the Northeast some two centuries ago, but were all but wiped out in the late 1800s and early 1900s by a disease known as downy mildew.

Formation of the mildew is driven by high humidity common in Connecticut summers, so developing resistant varieties is key to a successful crop.

James LaMondia, chief scientist at CAES who is overseeing the project, gave a tour of the quarter-acre hopyard in Windsor, and said his agency is available to help growers with soil tests and measures to control disease and pests like the leaf hopper and Japanese beetle.

He also encouraged those attending the meeting to look for old hops varieties that can still be found in the state, perhaps

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	74.00	77.00
boners 80-85% lean	72.00	76.50
lean 88-90% lean	68.00	74.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	118.00	122.50
Choice 2-3	116.00	123.50
Sel 1-2	112.00	117.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	n/a	n/a
Ch 2-3	107.00	113.50
Sel 1-2	99.00	105.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	117.50	120.50
Ch 2-3	1@	112.00
Select 1-2	101.00	109.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS - Yield Grade 1		
Average Dress	102.00	112.00
High Dress	114.00	121.00
Very High Dress	124.00	128.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 120-128 lbs	150.00	150.00
No 1 94-118 lbs	172.00	187.00
No 1 90-92 lbs	147.00	147.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	245.00	280.00
50-60 lbs	240.00	250.00
60-70 lbs	225.00	235.00
80-90 lbs	227.00	250.00
90-110 lbs	202.00	222.00
110-130 lbs	190.00	208.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	90.00	100.00
160-200 lbs	80.00	90.00
200-300 lbs	80.00	80.00
BUCKS		
200-300 lbs	80.00	117.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	180.00	215.00
60-80 lbs	240.00	275.00
80-100 lbs	310.00	310.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:		
Select 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	175.00	200.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
80-100 lbs	190.00	230.00
100-150 lbs	230.00	275.00
150-250 lbs	280.00	330.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	54.00	60.00
	300-350 lbs	53.00	54.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	49.00	55.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	35.00	37.00
	500-700 lbs	42.50	44.00

NORTHEAST RETAIL MEAT PRICES

\$ per lb.

Pork spare ribs	1.79	4.99
Pork sirloin chops, bnls	2.49	3.99
Veal leg cutlets	9.99	11.99
Veal stew meat	5.89	6.99
Ground beef, 90% or more	4.99	5.99
Rib eye steak, b/i	7.99	8.97
NY strip steak, bnls	5.99	14.99

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4OZ	16.00	16.50
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	5.00	6.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEETS, 12 LBS	18.00	18.00
CORN, SWEET, 5 DOZ	20.00	22.00
FIDDLEHEADS, 10 LBS	45.00	50.00
GARLIC SCAPES, PER LB	2.00	6.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 12 CT	8.00	8.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24 CT	20.00	20.00
LETTUCE, RED/GRN LEAF, 12	8.00	8.00
LETTUCE, RED/GRN LEAF, 24	20.00	20.00
LETTUCE, ROMAINE, 12	8.00	8.00
LETTUCE, ROMAINE, 24	20.00	20.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB BAGS	18.00	20.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, BU	21.00	40.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 20 LBS	27.00	28.00
PEAS, SNOW, 10 LBS	20.00	20.00
PEAS, SUGAR SNAP, PER LB	2.00	2.00
PEAS, SUGAR SNAP, 10 LBS	20.00	20.00
POTATO, RNDWT, #1 CHEF, 50LB	17.00	17.00
POTATO, RNDWT, 10-5LB, #1-SZA	12.00	12.00
RADISHES, 24 LBS	12.00	12.00
RASPBERRIES, 18-1/2 PT, LB	2.00	2.00
RHUBARB, OPEN FIELD, 20LBS	35.00	35.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, #1, 1/2 BU	16.00	18.00
SQUASH, GREEN, #1, 1/2 BU	16.00	18.00
TOM, CHRY, GHSE, ONVINE, 5 LB	16.00	18.00
TOMS, CHERRY, GHSE, 8-10 OZ	24.00	26.00
TOMS, ONVINE, GHSE, 11 LBS	11.00	12.00

SHIPPED IN

BEANS, GRN, GA, MACH PK, BU	36.00	40.00
BEANS, FAVA, NJ, BU	30.00	32.00
BLUEBERRIES, NJ, 12-1PT	15.00	18.00
BLUEBERRY, ORG, NC, 12-6OZ	23.00	23.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 2 BU	16.00	22.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, CA, 25 LBS	32.00	36.00
CABBAGE, RED, NJ, 1-3/4BU	16.00	18.00
CHERRY, WA, 18 LBS, 9.5, BAGS	48.00	48.00
CHRRY, RANIER, OR, 15LBS, 9.5	52.00	52.00
CHINSE CABBAGE, NAPPA, NJ, 12	18.00	24.00
COLLARDS, NJ, 12 BNCH	12.00	13.00
CUKES, PCKL, NJ, 150-200	28.00	30.00
CUKES, PCKL, NJ, 200-300	34.00	36.00
DAIKON, W/TOPS, NJ, 1-1/9, 12	25.00	26.00
DANDELION, NJ, 12 BNCH	18.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, GA, MED, 1-1/9	14.00	16.00
GRAPES, CA, XL, SDLS, #1, 18LB	35.00	35.00
KALE, NJ, 12	12.00	14.00
KOHLRABI, NJ, BNCH, 12	16.00	16.00
LEEK, CA, 12 BUNCHES/CRT	20.00	24.00
LEMONS, CA, 7/10 BU, 75	48.00	52.00
MUSTARD, NJ, 12 BNCH/CRT	16.00	16.00
NECTARINE, YLLW, CA, ORG, 36	24.00	26.00
OKRA, GA, SM-MED, 1/2 BU	15.00	18.00
ONION, VIDALIA, GA, COL, 40 LBS	22.00	22.00
PEACHES, GA, 2-1/2", 1/2 BU	16.00	16.00
PEPPER, CUBANELLE, GA, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
PEPPER, JALAPENO, NJ, 10 LBS	12.00	13.00
PLUMS, BLK, CA, 28 LBS, 40-45	26.00	26.00
TOMATO, CHERRY, GA 12-1PT	10.00	12.00
TOMATO, PLUM, FL, 25LBS	16.00	17.00
TURNIP GREENS, NJ, 2BNC/CRT	16.00	16.00
WATERCRESS, AL, BNCH, 12	10.50	12.00
WATERMELON, FL, 10-14LB, EA	3.00	3.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT - June 27, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	60.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	87.50	115.00
76-90 lbs.	132.50	135.00
91-105 lbs.	137.50	140.00
106 lbs. & up	142.50	150.00
Farm Calves	147.50	165.00
Starter Calves	50.00	55.00
Veal Calves	160.00	210.00
Open Heifers	75.00	180.00
Beef Heifers	85.00	95.00
Feeder Steers	75.00	83.00
Beef Steers	106.00	110.00
Stock Bulls	100.00	130.00
Beef Bulls	85.00	101.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	15.00	29.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	40.00	105.00
Sheep each	145.00	210.00
Lambs each	130.00	230.00
Goats each	105.00	225.00
Kid Goats each	75.00	160.00
Canners	up to	75.00
Cutters	76.00	79.00
Utility Grade Cows	80.00	85.00
Rabbits each	5.00	25.00
Chickens each	3.00	25.00
Ducks each	5.00	25.00

Auction is open Monday, July 4, 2016**NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA**Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.79	.91
LARGE	.66	.80
MEDIUM	.46	.59

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.21	1.34
LARGE	1.10	1.19
MEDIUM	.56	.68
SMALL	.47	.58

USDA-EASTERN US HERBS

Per unit, as marked

ARUGULA, BABY, NJ, 4LB	12.00	13.50
BASIL, NJ, 15BNCH/CTN	19.00	21.00
CHIVES, MA/NH, 1 LB	8.00	10.00
CILANTRO, NJ, 1/2CT, 30	11.00	14.00
CIPOLINOS, NY, 10 LBS	16.00	18.00
DILL, NJ, 1/2 CRATE, 24	16.00	18.00
ESCHALLOT, NY, 10 LBS	8.00	8.00
HORSRDISH, NJ, 5 LBS	13.00	14.00
METHI, NJ, 1/2BRUCE, 24	20.00	20.00
MINT, MA/NH, 1/2BR, 12	10.00	12.00
OREGANO, NJ, 1LB, 12	8.00	9.00
SAGE, NJ, 1 LB, 12 BNCH	7.00	9.00
TARRAGON, NH, 1 LB, 12	8.00	10.00
THYME, NJ, 1 LB	8.00	8.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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47-R. For Sale: Model 580B backhoe loader. \$4,500.00. Ford 8N. \$1,000.00. Sylvan Tetrault 860-684-3458.

49-R. For Sale: Parts for Grimm hay tedders. Also, rough lumber. Sylvan Tetrault. 860-684-3458.

67-R. 99 Dart Hill Road, South Windsor. 5.5 acres, Rural Residential. Fully approved building lot with sewer available, well required. Ideal for horses, ambitious gardener, agricultural or home business. 800 foot driveway. Creative owner financing available. \$248,000.00. Annette Griffin, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services N.E. Properties. 860-604-7845.

69-R. Sweet corn available June 29. Latte & Espresso no Temptation. Contact Barbara Higgins @ 860-508-5811.

70-R. Kubota RCK6027BA Mower Deck easy mount fits Kubota B7800. Excellent condition. \$1,500.00. Ken Scappini 203-592-6530.

72-R. Ashley McCullough proudly representing Farm Family, a company that has been providing clients with reliable service for more than 60 years. Let me help you with your insurance needs. Specializing in Farm, Business, Home and Life Insurance. Get a quote today. Ashley.McCullough@Farm-Family.com or 401-397-1050.

73-R. For Sale: Mulch hay in 500 lb round bales. Asking \$19.00 per bale. Call Mike Sr. – 860-528-4660.

75-R. 11'6" aluminum row boat with new oars. \$350.00. James A. Fazzone 203-250-6677.

76-R. 8 yearling Baldy steers. 8 open yearling Baldy heifers. 4 bred Baldy heifers due August. 860-485-5720.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.



This truck was stolen Monday night from Mountain Dairy on Stearns Road in Storrs. Anyone with any information is asked to call State Police at Troop C in Tolland at 860-896-3200

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growing up a tree on the edge of a farm.

"There are varieties that were grown 100 years ago that are still around," he said. "If they survived that long you've got to figure they're pretty tough."

It takes three to five years for a newly-planted crop to mature. An acre can support about 9,000 of the water-loving plants, which will require about 50,000 gallons per season and yield roughly 1,000 pounds of dry hops.

The CAES' Windsor and Hamden hopyards were planted in 2013, and will produce its first full crop this summer.

"These have done pretty well," LaMondia said. "We've shipped some of these to some brewers and we've gotten some pretty good feedback."

Setting up a hopyard equipped with tall wooden poles strung with trellis wire from which hang long "bines" up which the plant climbs, can cost between \$15,000 to \$20,000 an acre.

The proper set-up for a hopyard was explained by Steve Schmidt, of Schmidt Farm in Farmington, New York, who DeFrancesco described as "the godfather of hopyards."

Schmidt said he designed about 300 hopyards last year, from Maine to Michigan to Virginia, and tends his own 3-acre yard in the Rochester, New York area.

He gave tips on everything from selection of the right wooden poles to how to prevent a windstorm from destroying a field.

"We try to angle everything so the wind goes through it," he said. "And make sure you plant your rows with the hills – not against them."

Black Locust and Red Cedar trees are among the best for strong, long-lasting poles.

"Red pine poles? Stay away from them," Schmidt said. There's a reason they're cheap. They break. If you're going to invest in it do it right the first time because you don't want to do it over again."

Schmidt says that farmers who have grown apples or grapes seem to be naturally suited to growing hops because of the extra attention those crops require.

Jason Hoagland, CHGA's Treasurer and a senior loan officer at Farm Credit East in Enfield, said he has received a number of inquiries about growing hops from farms whose infrastructure can be easily adapted to raising the crop.

"There's a lot of interest from tobacco farmers," he said, noting the similarities between a hopyard and the similar pole-and-wire system used in shade tobacco.

Jaime Smith, who handles several grant programs for the Dept. of Agriculture, said the Department has matching grants available to help farms transition to hops through the clearing of land or the development of infrastructure.

DeFrancesco, who will soon travel to Britain to consult with the British Hop Growers Association, said the booming popularity of craft beers is motivating some growers to try to discover and develop "the next hot hop" variety that may yield a patent and high profits as well as tasty beer.

"That's part of the attraction," he said. "Sometimes on a certain hopyard, magic happens."



Left: John Bonzo of New York-based Hops Harvester shows a harvesting machine, with the CAES hopyard in the background.

Below: Brandon Davis of North Stonington takes a whiff of a bag of dried Newport hops being passed around at the workshop. Hopyard designer Steve Schmidt is seen at rear of photo.

Below left: CHGA President Alex De-Francesco addresses the nearly 70 people who attended the event.

Page 1: Chief Scientist James LaMondia leading a tour of the CAES hopyard.



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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106.
Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVI, No. 25, June 28, 2016

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**
www.CTgrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner steven.reviczky@ct.gov	Steven K. Reviczky 860-713-2501
Agricultural Development linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-713-2503
Regional Market linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov	Linda Piotrowicz 860-566-3699
Farmland Preservation cam.weimar@ct.gov	Cameron Weimar, Ph.D 860-713-2511
Regulation & Inspection bruce.sherman@ct.gov	Dr. Bruce Sherman 860-713-2504
State Veterinarian mary.lis@ct.gov	Dr. Mary J. Lis 860-713-2505
Aquaculture david.carey@ct.gov	David Carey 203-874-2855
Agricultural Report Editor steve.jensen@ct.gov	Steve Jensen 860-713-2519